

DATE: December 2002

**SUBJECT: GYPSY MOTH SURVEY PROGRAM IN MISSOURI TO PRESENT TIME**

Missouri has approximately 20,000 square miles of forested area, which could be severely damaged by a gypsy moth infestation.

Extensive adult gypsy moth surveys have been conducted in Missouri since 1967 (Table 1).

A limited number of traps were placed in nearly every county of the state until 1981. From 1981 to 1984 approximately one-third of the counties were surveyed each year. From 1985 to 1995 at least one-half of the counties are trapped each year. Since 1996, at least ninety-five percent of the counties have been included in the annual survey.

The first adult moth was taken six miles NW of Springfield, Missouri in 1974. No additional moths were taken from this area.

**1980** - Adult moths were again found in Missouri. A total of three moths were taken in the state. One was found in a trap at the KOA campground near Jonesburg in Montgomery County and two in St. Louis County. In St. Louis County one was taken in Clayton, one in West County at the junctions of Hwy. 109 and Hwy. 100 (A distance of approximately sixteen miles).

**1981** - Nine moths were taken in the state. Five were trapped in St. Louis County at four separate locations: one was trapped at the KOA campground near Jonesburg in Montgomery County; one at the junction of Hwy. 63 S. and I-70, in Columbia (Boone County); one at 51st St. and Wornall in Kansas City (Jackson County); and one at the I-44 rest stop, two miles SW of Joplin in Newton County. A total of 3,500 traps were placed in the state. Approximately one third of the counties surveyed.

**1982** - Fourteen moths were trapped; all in the St. Louis area. The moths were trapped in thirteen separate locations. A total of 4,200 traps were placed state wide. Approximately one third of the counties surveyed.

**1983** - Eleven moths were trapped in the state. Ten of these at nine locations in St. Louis County. One was taken at High Ridge in Jefferson County. A total of 5,700 traps were placed in the state with 2,645 of this number being placed in St. Louis County. The area in St. Louis County where moths were caught previously was trapped at the rate of 16 traps per square mile. The remainder of the area was trapped at the rate of one trap per square mile. Approximately one third of the counties surveyed.

**1984** - Thirteen moths were taken in the state. Eleven of these at ten locations in St. Louis County. One was taken in the NW area of Jefferson County near the adjoining county line. One was also taken near Fort Leonard Wood, Pulaski County. A total of 6,000 traps were placed in the state with 2,729 of this amount being in the St. Louis area.

**1985** - Twenty-two moths were taken in the state. Eighteen of these at 15 locations in the St. Louis area. One was taken in NW Jefferson County; one at Gray Summit in Franklin County; one at Hannibal in Marion County; and one NE of Marshfield in Webster County. A total of 5,152 traps were placed in the state with 1,500 of this amount being in the St. Louis area.

**1986** - Eight moths were taken in the state. Seven of these were taken in St. Louis County, one in Johnson County. All were single trap finds. A total of 6,900 traps were placed in the state with 1,435 of this amount in the St. Louis area.

**1987** - Five moths were taken in the state, three of these in St. Louis County, one in Jefferson County, and one in Pike County. All were single trap finds. A total of 7,320 traps were placed in the state, with 1,180 of this amount being in St. Louis County. Eighty man-hours were spent in St. Louis County on egg mass survey (negative). The 1986 positive traps sites were delimited at 9 traps per square mile for 9 square miles.

**1988** - Eleven moths were taken in the state, five of these in St. Louis County in one trap, four in Webster County in one trap, one in Texas County, one in Jackson County. A total of 7,600 traps were placed within the state, with 900 of this amount being in St. Louis County. Eight man-hours were spent in St. Louis County on egg mass survey (negative). The 1987 positive trap sites were delimited at 9 traps per square mile for 9 square miles.

**1989** - Eleven adult male moths were captured within the state. Eight of these in the St. Louis metropolitan area in six traps; two in Webster County in one trap, and one in Callaway County. A total of 7,515 pheromone traps were placed in 86 counties throughout the state. The 1988 positive trap sites were delimited at 16 traps per square mile for 9 square miles.

**1990** - Eight adult male moths were captured within the state. Six of these in St. Louis County and two in Crawford County. All were single trap catches. A total of 7,432 traps were placed in 61 counties throughout the state. All 1989 positive trap sites were delimited at 16 traps per square mile for 9 square miles. Approximately 50 man-hours were used for egg mass survey, with negative results.

**1991** - Thirty-five adult male moths were captured within the state. Twenty-four in St. Louis County (7 in one trap; 1 in St. Charles County; 5 in Jackson County; 3 in Buchanan County; 1 in Texas County and 1 in Christian County. A total of 6,819 traps were placed in 65 counties throughout the state. All eight of the 1990 positive catch sites were intensely surveyed at 9 traps per square mile within a nine square mile area around each positive trap site. Fourteen gypsy moths were caught in eight traps within this delimiting survey area.

**1992** - Thirty-three male moths were trapped during the 1992 gypsy moth survey. Fourteen in St. Louis County; seven in Texas County; three each in Stone and Buchanan counties; two each in

Taney and St. Charles Counties; one in Greene and Newton Counties. A total of 8,721 traps were placed in 67 counties of the state. Two areas of concern in the state area as follows: Texas County on the north edge of Evening Shade, Missouri on the rural fire department property where six moths were trapped from one tree and another one approximately one mile away. The fire department had purchased a used fire truck in 1988 in the state of Vermont. The truck sat outside prior to purchase and may have been the origin of these moths.

An infestation was discovered in NW Arkansas. Egg mass densities were estimated at 10,000 per acre.

**1993** - A total of 9,032 traps were placed in 48 counties. Sixty-two (62) moths were trapped in 13 counties during this year's gypsy moth survey. The number of moths per county is as follows: Taney -28; St. Louis-11; Stone-7; Greene-3; Shannon-3; Jackson-2; Pulaski-2. The following counties had one moth each: Barry, Christian, Hickory, Jasper, Jefferson and Johnson.

The 35 moths in Taney and Stone Counties are of real concern. This may be attributable to a larval blow-out from the Compton, Arkansas infestation. Regardless of the source, it will take several years of intensive survey. No moths were found in Texas County in Evening Shade, Missouri, where seven were taken in 1992.

Arkansas treated approximately 600 acres with Dimilin. Unfortunately, just before the scheduled treatment a strong storm (possibly a tornado) passed through the area and scattered larvae over a very wide area (likely including SW Missouri).

**1994** - Forty moths (40) were taken in 35 traps in the state. Approximately 13,000 traps were set in 97 counties. Numbers were down in SW Missouri, only six moths were captured in Stone and Taney Counties, combined. The number of moths per county is as follows: Clay-2; Franklin-2; Jackson-3; Pettis-3; St. Louis-18; Stone-2; Taney-4. The following counties had one moth each: Christian, Jefferson, Phelps, Pulaski, Ripley, and Scotland. Five of the eighteen taken in St. Louis County were in 4 traps near Six Flags. A winter survey for egg masses in the area was negative. All catches were single moths except five traps, which had two each.

Arkansas treated approximately 25,000 acres around Compton, Arkansas. A total of 286 moths were captured in Arkansas (90% reduction from 1993).

**1995** - Twenty-six (26) moths were taken in 23 traps in the state. Approximately 12,500 traps were set in 85 counties. Sixteen of the moths were taken from 13 traps in St. Louis County. (Of the moths taken in St. Louis County, six moths were from a concentrated area north of Eureka.) Egg mass surveys in this area were negative. The only multiple trap catches were in St. Louis County. The number of moths per county is as follows: Christian-1; Jackson-1; Pettis-1; St. Louis County-16; Taney-4; Texas-3.

There was an accidental introduction of gypsy moth egg masses in eastern Dent County in 1995.

An area of approximately 5 acres was treated twice with *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* using ground application equipment in May. The area was heavily trapped as a follow-up measure and no moths were captured.

The risk rating classification of all counties in Missouri was re-evaluated by representatives from MDA, MDC, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, DNR, and USFS.

Arkansas treated 17,697 acres twice with Bt. Only 14 moths were captured statewide in 11 traps. Arkansas plans no treatment in 1996, but will continue heavy trapping.

**1996** - Six (6) moths were taken in six traps in the statewide survey in 1996\*\*. Approximately 11,500 traps were set in 114 counties. This was the first time all 114 counties were surveyed in a single year, providing the most comprehensive survey to date in Missouri. All positives were single moth catches from the following counties: Christian, Holt, Taney (2 singles), and Texas Counties. The moth in Christian County was taken from a delimiting area, all others were taken in detection trapping. This total represents the lowest moth catch since 1987. \*\*Note: an additional positive moth was discovered in 1997 in St. Louis County (Babler State park) in a trap from the 1996 survey, bringing total to 6 moths.

The newly revised risk rating classification was utilized in the distribution of survey traps in 1996. Also new in 1996 was the use of GIS mapping technology to plot the location of traps and all positive moth sites. The Missouri Department of Conservation was instrumental in developing and implementing the mapping project. As part of the effort to standardize the survey program, newly developed data sheets were used by all participating agencies to provide consistency in the recording of trap locations and positive finds. Another new project in 1996 was a newsletter, **Gypsy Moth News** *A Report of the Missouri Cooperative Gypsy Moth Program*, developed to improve the communication between the various agencies, trappers, and other interested parties.

**1997** - Thirteen (13) moths were taken in ten traps from two counties as follows: St. Louis County - 9 moths (5 singles, 2 doubles); Taney County in southwest Missouri - 4 moths (2 singles, 1 double). Note: an additional positive moth was discovered in St. Louis County in a trap from the 1996 survey. Approximately 10,500 traps were deployed in this year's survey. Traps were placed in 108 of Missouri's 114 counties.

**1998** - Seventeen (17) moths were taken in nine traps from seven counties as follows: St. Louis County - 9 moths (1 single, 1 with eight moths); Taney County - 2 moths (singles); St. Charles County - 2 moths (1 double); the following counties each reported one moth: Bollinger, Jackson, Johnson, and Platte Counties

Approximately 11,470 pheromone traps were placed throughout the state in the annual effort to detect the presence of this damaging insect pest. Traps were placed in approximately 108/114 counties. Primary trapping agencies were Missouri Departments of Agriculture and

Conservation, University of Missouri-IPM (coop agreement with USDA-APHIS-PPQ), with additional trapping conducted by, USDA-Vet. Services, and U.S. Department of Defense (Whiteman AFB, Ft. Leonard Wood).

**1999** - Thirteen (13) moths were taken in twelve traps from five counties as follows: Clay County - 1 moth; Laclede County - 1 moth; St. Charles County - 4 moths (1 double, 2 singles); St. Louis County - 6 moths (all singles); and Taney County - 1 moth.

Approximately 12,219 pheromone traps were utilized in this year's survey. Traps were placed in 108/114 counties throughout the state. Primary trapping agencies were Missouri Departments of Agriculture and Conservation, University of Missouri-IPM (coop agreement with USDA-APHIS-PPQ), with additional trapping conducted by, USDA-Vet. Services, and U.S. Department of Defense (Whiteman AFB, Ft. Leonard Wood).

**2000** – Twelve (12) moths were taken in ten traps from three counties as follows: St. Charles County – 2 moths (singles); St. Louis County – 9 moths (2 doubles, 5 singles); Stone County – 2 moths (singles). Approximately 12,130 traps were utilized in the survey. Traps were placed in 108/114 counties throughout the state. Primary trapping agencies were Missouri Departments of Agriculture and Conservation, University of Missouri –IPM, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and USDA-Veterinary Services, with additional trapping conducted by U. S. Department of Defense (Whiteman AFB, Ft. Leonard Wood) and Missouri National Guard.

**2001** – Six (6) moths were taken in four traps from three counties as follows: Callaway County – 1 moth; St. Louis County – 4 moths (triple, single); Stone County – 1 moth. Approximately 11,889 traps were utilized in the survey. Traps were placed in 109/114 counties throughout the state. Primary trapping agencies were Missouri Departments of Agriculture and Conservation, University of Missouri – IPM, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and USDA-Veterinary Services, with additional trapping conducted by U.S. Department of Defense (Whiteman AFB, Ft. Leonard Wood) and the Missouri National Guard.

**2002** – Four (4) moths were taken in four traps from two counties as follows: St. Charles – 1 moth; St. Louis County – 3 moths. Approximately 11,400 pheromone traps were utilized in the survey this year. Traps were placed in 102/114 counties throughout the state. Primary trapping agencies remain the Missouri Departments of Agriculture and Conservation, University of Missouri – IPM, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and USDA-Veterinary Services, with additional trapping conducted by the U.S. Department of Defense (Whiteman AFB, Fort Leonard Wood) and the Missouri National Guard. The University of Missouri is withdrawing from participation in the annual survey after this season due to new program direction and support staff shortages.

**Table 1.**

**Summary of Missouri Gypsy Moth Survey Program, 1967-2001**

Year	# Traps used in survey	Area surveyed	# Multiple catches	Total number of moths taken

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1967-1973	??	Limited statewide	0	0
1974	??	Limited statewide	0	1
1975-1979	??	Limited statewide	0	0
1980	??	Limited statewide	0	3
1981	3,500	1/3 of state	1	9
1982	4,200	1/3 of state	1	14
1983	5,700	1/3 of state	1	11
1984	6,000	1/3 of state	1	13
1985	5,152	of state	2	22
1986	6,900	of state	0	8
1987	7,320	of state	0	5
1988	7,600	of state	2	11
1989	7,515	86/114 counties	2	11
1990	7,432	61/114 counties	0	8
1991	6,819	65/114 counties	3	35
1992	8,721	67/114 counties	7	33
1993	9,032	48/114 counties	7	62
1994	13,000	97/114 counties	5	40
1995	12,500	85/114 counties	2	26
1996**	11,500	114/114 counties	0	6
1997	10,500	108/114 counties	2	13
1998	11,470	108/114 counties	2	17
1999	12,219	108/114 counties	1	13
2000	12,130	108/ 114 counties	2	12
2001	11,889	109/114 counties	1	6
2002	11,400	102/114 counties	0	4
**entire state surveyed			<b>Total # moths taken in 35 years</b>	<b>383</b>